

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 151281
ORIGIN IO-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-03 ISO-00 /007 R

66011

DRAFTED BY IO/UNA:JFTEFFT
APPROVED BY IO/UNA:JFTEFFT
AF:BSALTER

-----060474 142244Z /12

O 142108Z JUN 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO RUTAIJ/AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN IMMEDIATE 0000

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 151281

ABIDJAN FOR DALLEY AND HOLLOWAY FROM UNA

FOL RPT HAVANA 1598 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO ADDIS ABABA
KINSHASA, LUSAKA & MOSCOW DTD 13 JUN 78

QUOTE: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HAVANA 1598

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: OPREP SOPN PDEV XA MILI CU

SUBJ: CODEL SOLARZ MEETS WITH FIDEL CASTRO

1. SUMMARY: DURING NINE HOUR MEETING, JUNE 12, WITH CONGRESSMEN SOLARZ AND BEILENSON, FIDEL CASTRO AGREED TO "FACILITATE" DEPARTURE OF 480 US-CUBAN BINATIONALS AND CUBAN MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILIES (SOME 1700 PEOPLE), DECLINED TO MOVE ON AMCIT POLITICAL PRISONERS, ACCUSED USG OF LYING ON SHABA INCURSION, AND SAID HE WOULD NOT WISH TO COMMIT HIMESLF PUBLICLY TO NON-USE OF CUBAN TROOPS IN ERITREA AND RHODESIA. CASTRO SEEMED PESSIMISTIC REGARDING FUTURE OF US-CUBA RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 151281

2. CONGRESSMEN STEPHEN SOLARZ (D-NY) AND ANTHONY BEILENSON (D-CALIFORNIA) MET WITH FIDEL CASTRO, JUNE 12, FOR SEVEN HOURS, OF PRIVATE CONVERSATION, PUNCTUATED BY TWO-HOUR OPEN SESSION WITH ACCOMPANYING NEW YORK TIMES, WASHINGTON POST, AND TIME MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENTS.

3. ALTHOUGH CONVERSATION FOCUSED ON AFRICA, CODEL ALSO RAISED BILATERL ISSUES OF AMCIT DUAL NATIONAL EMIGRATION AND RELEASE OF AMCIT POLITICAL PRISONERS. ON LATTER, CASTRO SAID THAT AMCIT POLITICAL PRISONER RELEASE IS NOT POSSIBLE UNDER EXISTING

CIRCUMSTANCES. RELEASE NOW, CASTRO SAID, WOULD NOT BE UNDERSTOOD BY PEOPLE IN CUBA AND WOULD CREATE "POLITICAL PROBLEMS" IN CUBA.

4. ON BINATIONAL EMIGRATION, CASTRO, IN FIRST PORTION OF MEETING SAID SIMPLY THAT HE WOULD NOT WANT CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION "TO JEOPARDIZE" DEPARTURE OF THE 480 AMCITS AND THEIR FAMILIES (ABOUT 1700 PEOPLE IN TOTAL). AFTER MEETING WITH JOURNALISTS, CASTRO PRIVATELY TOLD SOLARZ AND BEILENSON THAT, IF HE RECEIVED A LIST OF THE PEOPLE INVOLVED, HE WOULD BE "PREPARED TO PROCEED WITH EFFORT TO FACILITATE THEIR DEPARTURE". (COMMENT: CUBAN OFFICER SUPERVISING CODEL VISIT, WHO WAS PRESENT DURING CASTRO MEETING, ASSURED ACTING USINT CHIEF, IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, THAT CASTRO WAS COMMITTING HIMSELF TO PERMIT DEPARTURE OF BINATIONALS AND THEIR FAMILIES. USINT, IN WAKE OF CODEL RICHMOND/NOLAN VISIT LAST DECEMBER, SUPPLIED LISTS OF BINATIONALS TO MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS - MINREX. MANY OF THESE PEOPLE HAVE SUBSEQUENTLY BEEN IN CONTACT WITH CUBAN EMIGRATION AUTHORITIES. USINT, JUNE 13, WILL DISPATCH NEW NOTE TO MINREX, CITING CASTRO'S ASSURANCES TO SOLARZ AND BEILENSON AND, PROVIDING LIST OF NAMES OF DUAL NATIONALS SEEKING EXIT PERMISSION)

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 151281

5. ON SHABA INCIDENT, CASTRO EXPRESSED RAGE (IN FRONT OF JOURNALISTS) AND A SENSE OF PERSONAL HURT THAT HIS EFFORTS TO REMAIN UNINVOLVED AND EVEN TO HEAD OFF ATTACK HAD BEEN RECEIVED SO POORLY IN US. CASTRO WENT OVER MUCH OF SAME GROUND WITH CODEL AS HE DID WITH LYLE LANE, MAY 17. HE SAID THAT CUBANS HAD NO ONGOING ASSOCIATION WITH KATANGESE IN MILITARY, TECHNICAL, OR INTELLIGENCE-GATHERING FIELDS SINCE END OF ANGOLAN WAR. HE SAID THAT RUMORS OF A POSSIBLE SHABA ATTACK HAD REACHED HIM IN APRIL, AND THAT HE HAD BROUGHT REPORTS TO ATTENTION OF NETO. NETO HAD URGED RESTRAINT ON KATANGESE, BUT NETO THEN DEPARTED COUNTRY THINKING PROBLEM SOLVED. CASTRO CLAIMED THAT HE OPPOSED SHABA ATTACK BECAUSE IT WOULD DESTABILIZE RELATIONS BETWEEN ANGOLA AND ZAIRE AND DIVERT ATTENTION FROM PRINCIPAL AFRICAN PROBLEM - OVERTURN OF MINORITY RULE IN RHODESIA, NAMIBIA, AND SOUTH AFRICA.

6. WHEN ASKED WHETHER IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE FOR UNAUTHORIZED, INDIVIDUAL CUBANS OR EVEN CUBAN DEFECTORS TO BE INVOLVED IN KATANGESE TRAINING ACTIVITIES, CASTRO "CATEGORICALLY REJECTED" THESE POSSIBILITIES, CLAIMING THAT HAVANA KNOWS WHERE EVERY CUBAN SOLDIER IS LOCATED AND THAT CUBANS HAVE NOT HAD ONE SINGLE DEFECTOR. (COMMENT: LATTER STATEMENT IS FALSE, BUT CASTRO CONCEIVABLY MAY NOT BE FULLY INFORMED.) CASTRO ADDED THAT EASTERN ANGOLA IS LARGE AND UNINHABITED, THAT CUBANS HAD NO CONTACT, AND DID NOT EVEN HAVE DOCTOR, WITH KATANGESE.

7. CASTRO LAID OUT FOLLOWING OUTLINE TO BUTTRESS HIS CONTENTION THAT USG WAS "GROSS" AND "BRUTAL" IN RESPONDING TO HIS "GESTURE" OF INFORMING USG OF CUBAN "NON-INVOLVEMENT" IN SHABA EVENTS. FIRST, HE SAID, CUBANS HAD RECEIVED A COMMUNICATION FROM USG ON MAY 15 (COMMENT: NOT VIA USINT HAVANA), WHICH INDICATED THAT US WAS CONCERNED WITH SHABA SITUATION THEN, TWO STATEMENTS WERE MADE IN US (PRESUMABLY IN PRESS BRIEFINGS) INDICATING THAT CUBANS APPEARED NOT TO BE INVOLVED IN SHABA. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, CASTRO DECIDED TO MAKE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 STATE 151281

GESTURE TO USG BY TELLING LANE, ON MAY 17, THAT CUBANS WERE NOT INVOLVED IN ANY WAY. IN REPLY TO THIS, US ON MAY 18 OR 19 PASSED MESSAGE TO CUBANS (WHICH CASTRO READ, BUT DID NOT GIVE, TO JOURNALISTS) EXPRESSING THANKS FOR ASSURANCES RECEIVED AND SUGGESTING CUBAN ISSUANCE OF PUBLIC STATEMENT ON NON-INVOLVEMENT-WHICH CUBANS DID ON MAY 21. CUBAN VICE-PRESIDENT CARLOS RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ, THEN AT UN, ALSO CABLED THAT USG WAS SATISFIED WITH CUBAN ASSURANCES.

8. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND OF APPARENT USG SATISFACTION, CASTRO SAID HE WAS "TRAUMATIZED" BY MAY 19 LEAD OF HIS MEETING WITH LANE AND STATEMENT BY STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN, MAY 19, THAT CUBANS WERE DEEPLY INVOLVED FROM THE BEGINNING IN SHABA INVASION. HE SAID THESE US STATEMENTS - "A BIG LIE" - (WHICH HE TOLD JOURNALISTS, EMANATED FROM DR. BRZEZINSKI'S OFFICE) WERE MADE WITHOUT ANY PRIOR EFFORT TO ELICIT A CUBAN RESPONSE, EVEN THOUGH USG ON PREVIOUS DAY HAD EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH CUBAN ASSURANCES. (COMMENT: ACCORDING TO CONGRESSMEN, CASTRO SOUGHT TO CREATE IMPRESSION THAT HE FELT DEEPLY AND PERSONALLY WOUNDED BY THIS APPARENT WASHINGTON TURN-AROUND. WHILE FAIRLY REASONABLE IN PRESENCE OF CONGRESSMEN, BY TIME HE SAW JOURNALISTS CASTRO HAD APPARENTLY WORKED HIMSELF INTO HIGHLY AROUSED STATE AND CONDEMNED HIS PERCEIVED ENEMIES IN WASHINGTON - DR. BRZEZINSKI AND CIA - IN VERY SHARP TERMS).

9. REGARDING SHABA EVIDENCE, CASTRO CLAIMED THAT CIA FABRICATED CASE TO REMOVE LEGISLATIVE RESTRICTIONS ON ITS ABILITY TO OPERATE. CASTRO PARTICULARLY DISCOUNTED KATANGAN POW REPORTING AS INTRINSICALLY UNRELIABLE. CASTRO RHETORICALLY ALSO ASKED HOW HE COULD RISK DELIBERATELY LYING CONSIDERING THE DAMAGE IT WOULD DO TO HIS "FRIENDS" -SENATOR MCGOVERN, SENATOR CHURCH, AMBASSADOR YOUNG, AND SECRETARY VANCE. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 05 STATE 151281

10. CASTRO SAID THAT HE DOES NOT INTEND TO CRITICIZE

PRESIDENT CARTER PERSONALLY. HE EXPRESSED "SADNESS" AND "DISMAY" AT FACT THAT PRESIDENT'S ADVISORS ARE "MISINFORMING" HIM. HE SAID THAT PRESIDENT WAS "DECIVED" AND "CONFUSED". IN REPLY TO CONGRESSMAN BEILENSON'S SUGGESTION, CASTRO INDICATED THAT HE IS PERFECTLY WILLING TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT CARTER, BUT THAT HE RECOGNIZED THAT SUCH A MEETING IN CURRENT POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO BRING ABOUT.

11. ON ETHIOPIA, CASTRO SPOKE HIGHLY OF MENGISTU AND DID NOT REFER TO ANY CUBAN-ETHIOPIAN DIFFICULTIES. HE SAID THAT HE COULD NOT MAKE A PUBLIC COMMITMENT NOT TO USE CUBAN TROOPS IN ERITREA SINCE THIS WOULD UNACCEPTABLY LIMIT HIS FLEXIBILITY. ON OTHER HAND, CASTRO DENIED THAT CUBAN COMBAT TROOPS ARE NOW IN ERITREA, AND SAID THAT CUBA PREFERS A POLITICAL SOLUTION TO THE ERITREAN PROBLEM WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF MARXIST-LENINIST ETHIOPIAN STATE. HE, HOWEVER, COULD NOT BE DRAWN OUT ON DETAILS OF CURRENT POLITICAL AND MILITARY MANEUVERINGS WITH REGARD TO ERITREA, OTHER THAN TO SAY THAT IF ERITREAN MOVEMENT WERE TO BECOME "COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY" AND SEEK TO DESTROY ETHIOPIAN REGIME CUBANS MIGHT HAVE TO BECOME INVOLVED. CASTRO ADDED THAT IF CUBAN TROOPS WERE NOW WITHDRAWN FROM ETHIOPIA, SOMALIS WOULD AGAIN INVADE.

12. ON ANGOLA, CASTRO EXPRESSED HIGH REGARD FOR NETO AND DID NOT ALLUDE TO INTERNAL DIFFERENCES WITHIN MPLA. HE SAID THAT MPLA ENJOYS OVERWHELMING SUPPORT IN ALL PARTS OF COUNTRY, INCLUDING SOUTH. UNLIKE ETHIOPIA, CASTRO COMPLETELY DISCOUNTED POSSIBILITY OF RECONCILIATION BETWEEN MPLA AND SAVIMBI - REFERRING TO LATTER'S TIES WITH SOUTH AFRICA AND KILLING OF PRISONERS.

13. TURNING TO RHODESIA, CASTRO ALSO SAID THAT HE WOULD NOT PUBLICLY COMMIT HIMSELF NOT TO SEND TROOPS INTO THAT COUNTRY, SINCE THIS WOULD REMOVE INCENTIVE FOR SMITH TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 06 STATE 151281

MAKE CONCESSIONS.

14. CASTRO SAID THAT, AS A MATTER OF GENERAL POLICY, HE DOES NOT PROMOTE SUBVERSION OF GOVERNMENTS IN AFRICA. IN THIS CONTEXT, HE POINTED OUT THAT, WHILE HE DOES NOT HAVE CONTACTS WITH KATANGAN GENDARME LEADERS, MASS OF KATANGAN FORCES ARE NOW OPPOSED TO SHABA SECESSION, AND ARE COMMITTED TO OVERTHROW OF MOBUTU WHILE HE WOULD BE JUSTIFIED IN HELPING KATANGANS BECAUSE OF MOBUTU'S SPONSORSHIP OF FNLA AND FLEC, CASTRO REITERATED HE HAD NOT DONE SO. ONLY LIBERATION GROUPS BEING ASSISTED, HE CLAIMED, WERE PATRIOTIC FRONT, SWAPO, AND SOUTH AFRICA'S ANC.

15. IN BRIEF EXCURSION ON MIDDLE EAST, CASTRO INDICATED THAT HE OPPOSED THE SADAT INITIATIVE AS DESTRUCTIVE OF ARAB

SOLIDARITY, BUT WOULD NOT CRITICIZE IT PUBLICLY.

16. LOOKING AT FUTURE OF US-CUBAN RELATIONS, CASTRO SAID THAT HE WAS LESS THAN OPTIMISTIC, GIVEN "DELIBERATE MIS-REPRESENTATION" OF CUBAN ACTIONS IN AFRICA. HE SAID THAT OPENING OF INTERESTS SECTIONS HAD BEEN POSITIVE ACTION, BUT IF US CLOSED THEM "SO BE IT". HE (CASTRO) WAS PREPARED TO WAIT ANOTHER TWENTY YEARS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS. CASTRO GAVE JOURNALISTS "MESSAGE TO AMERICAN PEOPLE" WHICH STATED THAT HE IS FIRM IN HIS RESPECT AND ADMIRATION FOR AMERICAN PEOPLE WHATEVER ACTION IS TAKEN BY THEIR "RULERS".

17. COMMENT:CASTRO CLEARLY SEEMED INTENT ON CONVEYING THE IMPRESSION THROUGH THE CONGRESSMEN TO THE US PUBLIC THAT HE HAS BEEN ABUSED BY ADMINISTRATION. THIS EFFORT IS PRESUMABLY INTENDED TO EXPLOIT "UNDERDOG" SYMPATHIES IN US AND TO SPLIT OFF DOVISH ELEMENTS IN ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESS FROM HAWKS. WHILE CASTRO MAY NOT BE PARTICULARLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 07 STATE 151281

CONFIDENT OF THE SUCCESS OF HIS MANEUVERINGS, HIS APPARENT DECISION TO PERMIT DEPARTURE OF THE 480 DUAL NATIONALS SUGGESTS THAT HE STILL CONTINUES TO BE INTERESTED IN, AND HOPEFUL OF, LIMITING DAMAGE TO NORMALIZATION PROCESS, WITH US. NONETHELESS, CASTRO'S UNBENDING LINE ON HAVANA'S MILITARY PARTICIPATION IN ANGOLA, ETHIOPIA, AND RHODESIA INDICATES THAT THE CUBAN LEADER IS STILL PREPARED TO WRITE OFF FUTURE US LINKS BEFORE SACRIFICING AFRICAN FREEDOM OF ACTION.

18. FYI: MOST OF MATERIAL IN PARAS ONE THROUGH SIXTEEN WERE BRIEFED BY CONGRESSMEN TO PRESS. END FYI. GLASSMAN UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 sep 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CODELS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE151281
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: IO/UNA:JFTEFFT
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D780249-0238
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197806115/baaaeyxt.tel
Line Count: 255
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6f2f4f7e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2177285
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CODEL SOLARZ MEETS WITH FIDEL CASTRO
TAGS: OREP, SOPN, PDEV, MILI, XA, CU, US, (SOLARZ, STEPHEN J), (CASTRO RUZ, FIDEL)
To: n/a INFO RUTAIJ ABIDJAN MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6f2f4f7e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014